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Filed : January 22, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the examiner rejected Claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Chu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,204) in view of Bullock (U.S. Patent No. 6,810,323). Accordingly, the applicant has amended Claims 1 and 16 to more clearly differentiate the present invention from the technologies disclosed by the cited Chu et al. reference and Bullock reference. Other claims have also been amended to be consistent with the amendment in Claims 1 and 16. The applicant has canceled Claims 4, 6, 19 and 21. Claims 3 and 18 have been previously canceled by the applicant's response to the previous office action.

The cited Chu et al. reference discloses a structure of a time board for dynamically displaying the universal time. The time board is structured to be adaptable to hang on the wall of lounge of an airport, a main railroad station hall, a passenger terminal of a harbor, the office of tele-communication and the classroom of a school. The time board is comprised of a flat rectangular board having front panel on which a world map of Mercator Equator Projection is attached containing every country and region of the world which are covered by 24 time zones, each of the time zone occupies 15 degrees longitudes representing an hour. A local time column displays the hour, minute and second of the local time and works in concert with hours displayed in the time zones. The world map may be variable to facilitate every country or regions have equal chance to be centered in the map.

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Although the cited Chu et al. reference discloses the idea of obtaining the local time of a desired country or a region, it does not show any idea of retrieving the information regarding the business hours of the POI (point of interest) at the destination expressed by the local time. In the Office Action, the examiner has correctly acknowledged that the cited Chu et al. reference does not disclose the business operating hours and stated that the cited Bullock reference teaches a navigation system wherein information can be retrieved on business operating hours of POIs at a destination expressed by the local time. The applicant appreciates the examiner that the reasonable examination has been finally made for the instant application.

Accordingly, to more clearly differentiate the present invention from the technologies disclosed by the cited references, in Claims 1 and 16, the applicant has added the steps of (1) specifying a destination POI by selecting a POI (point of interest) from a POI database of the navigation system or from a remote service provider, (2) retrieving business hour information of the destination POI; and (3) comparing the ETA at the destination POI and the business hour information and informing an estimated open/close state of the destination POI at the time of arrival at the destination expressed by the local time. In the instant case, the substantially the same features noted above were recited in Claims 6 and 21, respectively. Thus, in the amendment noted above, the applicant has canceled Claims 4, 6, 19 and 21.

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The added features are supported by the original disclosure of the instant application, for example, at page 21, lines 7-25 with reference to the flow chart of Figure 10 showing the step of obtaining the business hours of POI and showing the open/close status of the POI at the time of arrival, and also the description from page 22, line 7 to page 25, line 3 with reference to Figures 12A-12B and 14A-14B showing the display examples of navigation system including information on business hours of POIs and open/close status of the POIs at the time of arrival.

The description of the cited Bullock reference, at column 12, lines 10-26, which is pointed out by the examiner in the Office Action, reads as follows:

The website also provides Jim with the option of reviewing information from an on-line directory that includes businesses and other points-of-interest. Jim uses the on-line directory to search for restaurants located within a quarter-mile radius of the waypoint. The search identifies four restaurants, including "Le Francais," and provides hypertext links to information for each of the four restaurants. Jim selects the link corresponding to "Le Francais" and reviews the displayed information, which includes the street address (1215 S. Milwaukee Ave.), phone number, hours of operation, etc. The webpage presents Jim with the option of creating a new waypoint that includes all of the information for "Le Francais." Jim selects that option and the new waypoint is stored along with Jim's other stored waypoints. Because the original waypoint (i.e., the one that Jim created when he noticed "Le Francais" while driving) is now superfluous, Jim decides to delete it.

Although it shows the idea of retrieving the information on the hours of operation, it is clear that the cited Bullock reference is silent about the feature (3) directed to the step of comparing the ETA at the destination POI and the business hour

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information and informing an estimated open/close state of the destination POI at the time of arrivals.


As discussed above, the essential features of the present invention are not shown or suggested by the cited Chu et al. reference or the cited Bullock reference taken singly or in combination, thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is no longer applicable to the present invention.

Under the circumstances, the applicant believes that the present application is in the condition for allowance, and the applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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